

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RANGOO 01352 01 OF 02 131104Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SNM-02 ARA-06

AID-05 /086 W

-----131112Z 097987 /11

R 130945Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3479

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DEA BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL MANDALAY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 1352

.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SNAR, CH, NZ, CU, BM

SUBJ: JOINT WEEKA #18, MAY 7-13

CONTENTS

1. PRESIDENT NE WIN RETURNS FROM CHINA
2. DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE DISMISSED
3. BURMESE STEVEDORES FOR KUWAIT
4. LO HSING HAN'S APPEAL DENIED
5. TRAINING FOR TREATMENT OF DRUG ADDICTS
6. BURMA TO ATTEND POPULATION SEMINAR
7. GUB WIDENS PRESS CENSORSHIP

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 RANGOO 01352 01 OF 02 131104Z

8. CUBAN AMBASSADOR APPOINTED

9. NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR

END CONTENTS.

1. PRESIDENT NE WIN RETURNS FROM CHINA (CONF)

PRESIDENT NE WIN, HIS WIFE AND THEIR ENTOURAGE
RETURNED TO RANGOON FROM CHINA MAY 12, CONCLUDING AN

UNUSUALLY LONG 16-DAY VISIT. MOST OF THE VISIT, HOWEVER, WAS POSSIBLY SET UP TO BALANCE THE LEDGERS IN RETURN FOR THE EXTREMELY WARM WELCOME ACCORDED MADAME CHOU EN-LAI (TENG YING-CHAO) DURING HER VISIT TO BURMA IN FEBRUARY.

COMMENT: THE MOST INTERESTING FEATURE OF THE VISIT WAS THE LACK OF A COMMUNIQUE. PRESIDENT NE WIN REPORTEDLY WENT TO CHINA WITH HOPES OF OBTAINING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, POSSIBLY FOR ONSHORE OIL DEVELOPMENT, AND MAY ALSO HAVE HOPED TO ACHIEVE SOME PROGRESS IN GETTING THE PRC TO LIMIT ITS SUPPORT TO THE BURMA COMMUNIST PARTY (BCP). A JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS NOT ISSUED. THE LACK OF ONE, HOWEVER, DOES NOT IN ITSELF MEAN ANYTHING. NEITHER SIDE WOULD NECESSARILY DESIRE A FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROGRESS ON THE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FRONT AND THE LONG STANDING ISSUE OF PRC SUPPORT FOR THE BCP DOES NOT LEND ITSELF TO COMMUNIQUE. THE WARMTH AND LENGTH OF THE VISIT WOULD INDICATE NO DECLINE IN RELATIONS. EQUALLY, THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS YET OF MAJOR PROGRESS. DEAD CENTER IS A LIKELY BET, AT THE LEAST, HOWEVER, NE WIN'S SELF IMAGE OF BEING ONE OF THE WORLD'S FOREMOST CHINA WATCHERS MUST SURELY HAVE BEEN ENHANCED.

2. DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE DISMISSED (LOU)

THE DUPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, U THEIN HAN, AND THREE OTHER OFFICIALS FROM THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE WERE FIRED RECENTLY ON THEIR RETURN TO RANGOON FROM A CONFERENCE IN MANILA. THE CUASE FOR THEIR DISMISSAL WAS REPORTEDLY THAT THEY HAD HAD DINNER WITH A CHINESE BUSINESSMAN IN HONG KONG WHO WAS EXPELLED FROM BURMA

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 RANGOO 01352 01 OF 02 131104Z

IN THE 1960'S AS AN UNDERSIRABLE PERSON. ANOTHER CASUALTY FROM THIS TRIP WAS U MYO SET, GENERAL MANAGER OF THE AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION DEPARTMENT. REPORTEDLY HE WAS FORCED TO RETIRE BECAUSE HE WAS THE RECIPIENT OF A PARCEL U THEIN HAN BROUGHT BACK FROM HONG KONG.

COMMENT: THE TRIVIALITY OF THE CAUSE FOR DISMISSAL ONE AGAIN POINTS UP THE DELICATE POSITION OF ANY GUB OFFICIAL TRAVELING ABROAD, AND THE SENSITIVITY OF THE GUB TO ANY CONTACT BETWEEN OFFICIAL BURMESE AND BURMESE RESIDING ABROAD OR FORMER RESIDENTS OF BURMA.

3. BURMESE STEVEDORS FOR KUWAIT (UNCL)

THE GUB MINISTRY OF LABOR RECENTLY SIGNED AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH AMERAPCO INCORPORATED OF KUWAIT TO SUPPLY 450 BURMESE STEVEDORES FOR WORK IN KUWAIT. THE MINISTRY OF LABOR IS NOW INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITIONS. MONTHLY SALARIES OFFERED FOR THE POSITIONS ARE: CHIEF OPERATING STEVEDOR \$525; ASSISTANT CHIEF OPERATING STEVEDOR \$450; WINCHMAN \$135; CHECKER \$200;

ASSISTANT CHECKER \$175; DECKMAN \$135; TALLYMAN \$135;
COOK \$120; FORKLIFT DRIVER \$135; MOBILE CRANE TRUCK
DRIVER \$150; OFFSIDER \$135; AND CARGO HANDLER \$120.
QUARTERS AND SUBSISTENCE ARE ALSO PROVIDED.

COMMENT: ASIDE FROM SUPPLYING SEAMEN FOR WORK ON
FOREIGN VESSELS, THIS IS THE FIRST OFFICIAL GUB EFFORT
TO PROVIDE WORKERS ABROAD. IT WILL HELP ALLEVIATE SOME
UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG SEMI-SKILLED DOCK WORKERS. HOWEVER,
GUB HOPES TO ADD TO TIS MEAGRE FOREIGN EXCAHNGE INCOME
THROUGH TRANSFER PAYMENTS FROM THE SMALL SALARIES BEING
OFFERED PROBABLY WILL NOT BE REALIZED.

A GOVERNMENT TO PRIVATE BUSINESS CONTRACT INVOLVING
THE EXPORT OF BURMESE LABORERS MUST SEEM TO SOME TO BE
A POTHOLE IN THE ROAD TO SOCIALISM. AS IS SO EMINENTLY
REASONABLE, IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF BURMA'S POVERTY,
THAT IT MIGHT GIVE RISE TO THE HOPE THAT PRAGMATISM IS
NOT COMPLETELY MORIBUND IN THE GUB. MORE LIKELY, HOWEVER,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 RANGOO 01352 01 OF 02 131104Z

IT IS ANOTHER RELUCTANT CONCESSION TO REALITY.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RANGOO 01352 02 OF 02 131101Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SNM-02

ARA-06 /086 W

-----131113Z 097991 /11

R 130945Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3480

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DEA BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL MANDALAY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 RANGOON 1352

4. LO HSING HAN'S APPEAL DENIED (UNCL)

RANGOON DIVISION COURT ON MAY 9 DISMISSED THE APPEAL OF LO HSING HAN AGAINST THE LIFE SENTENCE IMPOSED ON HIM FOR NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND OTHER SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES. THE COURT CONFIRMED THE SENTENCE OF THE LOWER BODY, AND LO HSING HAN HAS BEGUN SERVING HIS LIFE SENTENCE.

5. TRAINING FOR TREATMENT OF DRUG ADDICTS (UNCL)

THE RANGOON PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL WILL OPEN A TWO-WEEK COURSE ON TREATMENT OF DRUG ADDICTS JUNE 6. A TOTAL OF 16 DOCTORS AND 14 NURSES FROM THROUGHOUT BURMA ARE SCHEDULED TO ATTEND THE COURSE. THE GUB
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 RANGOO 01352 02 OF 02 131101Z

HOPES TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL STATISTICAL DATA ON THE DRUG PROBLEM IN BURMA BY REQUIRING THOSE ATTENDING THE COURSE TO SUBMIT LISTS OF REGISTERED ADDICTS AND THE TYPE OF DRUGS USED IN THE RESPECTIVE TOWNSHIPS REPRESENTED.

6. BURMA TO ATTEND POPULATION SEMINAR (UNCL)

TWO HEALTH MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN NAMED TO ATTEND THE EAST-WEST CENTER SEMINAR IN POPULATION IN JUNE, THE FIRST PARTICIPATION BY BURMA IN THIS TYPE OF CONFERENCE. OFFICIAL INTEREST IN POPULATION MATTERS HAS INCREASED SINCE LAST YEAR WHEN THE HLUTTAW (PARLIAMENT) FIRST DECLARED THE NEED TO CONTROL POPULATION GROWTH. THE GUB MAY BE SLOWLY GROPING ITS WAY TOWARD A FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM.

7. GUB WIDENS PRESS CENSORSHIP (UNCL)

THE HOME MINISTRY ANNOUNCED THAT HENCEFORTH ALL MANUSCRIPTS MUST RECEIVE APPROVAL PRIOR TO PUBLICATION. HERETOFORE, ONLY TITLES DEALING WITH POLITICS, ECONOMIC OR BIOGRAPHY REQUIRED PREPUBLICATION CENSORSHIP. IN ADDITION, COVER DESIGNS MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR HOME MINISTRY APPROVAL IN ORDER TO AVOID COVERS WHICH MIGHT PROVIDE WIDESPREAD RUMORS AS DID THE RECENT RANGOON UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE (WEEKA #10, ITEM 6).

8. CUBAN AMBASSADOR APPOINTED (UNCL)

THE GUB ANNOUNCED MAY 9 THE APPOINTMENT OF A CUBAN AMBASSADOR, MRS. ANA MARIA GONZALEZ SUAREZ, TO BURMA.

MRS. SUAREZ, ALSO ACCREDITED TO SRI LANKA, WILL RESIDE
IN COLOMBO.

COMMENT: ALTHOUGH CUBA AND BURMA HAVE LONG RECOGNIZED
EACH OTHER, MRS. GONZALEZ IS THE FIRST CUBAN AMBASSADOR
EVER APPOINTED.

9. NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR (UNCL)
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 RANGOO 01352 02 OF 02 131101Z

THE GUB MAY 11 ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW
NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR TO BURMA, MR. JACK SHEPHERD.
CONCURRENTLY ACCREDITED TO MALAYSIA, MR. SHEPHERD
WILL RESIDE IN KUALA LUMPUR.
OSBORN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977RANGOO01352
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770169-0171
Format: TEL
From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770561/aaaacalg.tel
Line Count: 242
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: db1a2a95-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2535300
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOINT WEEKA #18, MAY 7-13 CONTENTS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SNAR, CH, NZ, CU, BM, (NE WIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/db1a2a95-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009